

# Local Council Award Scheme

Supporting presentation for in principle decision to apply for the scheme

# What are we going to cover today?

- Overview of scheme
- Why should SMPC apply?
- How to apply?
- What award level to apply for
- Conclusion and Basis for Conclusion
- Next steps

# Overview of Scheme

The Local Council Award Scheme (**LCAS**) has been designed to celebrate the **successes** of the very best local councils and to **provide a framework** to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their **full potential**. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the **standards set by the sector**, assessed them by their peers, and put in place the conditions for **continued improvement**.

The scheme has been designed to **provide the tools and encouragement to those councils** at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promote and recognise councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is only through the sector working together, to share best practices, drive up standards and support those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach their full potential.

LCAS undergoes a review every year. Local councils must **meet the criteria of the guidance** that is in place on the date they submit their completed application form to their local accreditation panel.

# Why Apply?

- Assurance that the council is up to date with standards
- Provides a framework for forward planning
- The award recognises that the hard work and commitment of the council is recognised and respected
- The award provides a tool that the council can use when working with the local community and other local partners
- Equally the local community and local partners will have increased confidence in the council as it is meeting national standards
- And finally, the scheme will contribute to the national reputation of local councils demonstrating achievements and a commitment to improvement.

# How to Apply?

- The first step is to [register](#) online with NALC. You will then be charged a £50 registration fee by NALC
- Tip: You do not need to have all the criteria in place at this stage, you are simply registering your interest in taking part in the scheme

Tip: You can apply for any award level - you don't need to start at Foundation

- When you have the criteria prepared and in place, confirm this in a public meeting
- You should then notify your local accreditation panel coordinator and provide the [application form](#) including links to online documents. At this stage, you will also pay an accreditation fee to your local County Association. This fee depends on the award level you are applying for and the size of your council (full information in the Local Council Award Scheme Guide) For SMPC this is £80 for foundation level
- Your local panel coordinator will contact you with the result of your application.

# Which award level shall we apply for?

## **Foundation Award**

- The Foundation award is for councils who want to show they meet a set of minimum standards to deliver effectively for their communities. To meet this award the council demonstrates that it has the required documentation and information in place for operating lawfully and according to standard practice. The council also has policies for training for its councillors and officers and so has the foundations for improvement and development in place.
- The Foundation award allows you to benchmark your performance as well as challenge you to consider your council's continuing development and improvement.

# Which award level shall we apply for?

## **Quality Award**

- The Quality Award demonstrates that a council achieves good practices in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Quality councils go above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.
- To achieve the Quality Award a council demonstrates that it meets all requirements of the Foundation Award and has additional evidence of good governance, effective community engagement and council improvement. Due to the level of this achievement, a council with a Quality Award can also be eligible to use the general power of competence.

# Which award level shall we apply for?

## **Quality Gold Award**

- The Quality Gold Award demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development. Quality Gold councils provide leadership for their communities, bring people together, have excellent business planning processes, ensuring value for money as well as constantly seek new innovations and opportunities to improve. They highlight the very best we, as a sector, can achieve for our communities.



# Conclusion and Basis for Conclusion

## **Conclusion**

- It is recommended that the Council apply for the foundation level in time for the May 2024 submission and set the wheels in motion for a longer-term plan to achieve higher accreditation in due course

## **Basis for Conclusion**

- Having reviewed the criteria with the Clerk we believe that we currently meet all /the majority of the requirements under the foundation award
- The next submission date is 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 which we believe is too soon so recommended to opt for the next round of submission in May 2024
- There are still a number items in the Quality Award and Quality Gold award that need planning so we believe we are not fully ready for this stage yet but will set a plan down to achieve

# Next Steps?

- Register on-line with NALC and pay the £50 registration fee
- Next application date is 5th January 2024 which is too soon so recommend that we aim for the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 application date and pay application fee: NB Panel decision 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024
- Attend training course on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Councillor Richardson & Clerk
- Set out plan for completion of papers in May 2024
- Set out plan for continuous improvement
- Resourcing: Councillor Richardson to lead with Clerk and Clerk's office and feed back to Council – use HALC as well